



VAFRE 2022-2023 Board of Directors Biographies

Victoria Arkesteyn, Housing Families First – New Board Member

Victoria is the Donor Relations Manager at Housing Families First, Richmond's largest emergency homeless shelter for families with children, where she executes annual fund coordination, donor stewardship and communications, fundraising event planning, and provides staff support to the Board of Directors. A Richmond native, she graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Art History. From 2009 to 2018, Victoria worked as the Education Manager at Henricus Historical Park. During her museum career she completed the Professional Certificate in Grant Writing & Management through the University of Richmond's Institute on Philanthropy. In an effort to gain meaningful experience in the field of philanthropy, Victoria left the museum field after nearly a decade and joined The Virginia Bar Association in 2018 before joining Housing Families First in 2020. Victoria and her husband, John, live in Mechanicsville with their three children, two Great Danes, Lincoln and Otis, and their cat, Kevin.

Leigh Busby, Greater Richmond Fit4Kids – Returning Board Member

Leigh Busby is the Development Director at Greater Richmond Fit4Kids, improving children's health and wellness through physical activity and healthy eating programs. After starting her career in human resources for technology companies, Leigh transitioned to the nonprofit sector when she moved to Richmond in 2011. She spent 5 years working for YWCA Richmond overseeing the volunteer program, in-kind donations, corporate partnerships, and the young professionals board – Young Women's Leadership Association (YWLA). Since 2017, Leigh has worked at Greater Richmond Fit4Kids overseeing individual giving, donor stewardship, event planning, communications and strategy, and board management. She is the 2022 VAFRE Rising Star honoree and has served on several nonprofit boards over the last 10 years, completed the Emerging Nonprofits Leaders Program in 2014, and is currently a member of Impact 100. Leigh graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and loves watching basketball and showing her Tarheel pride. She is married and has two amazing young boys and loves live music, hiking, being outside, and spending time with family and friends.

Samantha Charlet, MCV Foundation – Secretary/Treasurer

Samantha Charlet became an active member of VAFRE in February 2015. Since then, she has served on the board and the membership committee, reaping the many benefits of participating in the P3 program (twice!). Samantha joined the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Foundation as Assistant Director of Development in July 2022. Prior to this opportunity, she spent nearly a decade in corporate fundraising with United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Samantha graduated from James Madison University with a BA in Print Journalism and minors in Writing & Rhetoric and Women's Studies. From there, she earned her MA in Women's Studies from Florida Atlantic University. A Richmond resident since 2011, Samantha resides in Newtowne West with her husband, John, their twin daughters, Rosalee and Martigan,

and their cat, Yoshi. She enjoys live music, vegetarian cooking and cuisine, traveling, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends. Her favorite place in RVA is The Byrd Theatre.

Grace Davis, World Pediatric Project- Returning Board Member

Grace Davis has been the Mission Impact and Stewardship Officer at World Pediatric Project since the summer of 2019. She received her Masters of Nonprofit Studies from the University of Richmond and has previously worked with Sportable, Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity, and Make-A-Wish Greater Virginia. An alum of St. Catherine's School, Grace also taught for three years at St. Andrews School.

Rachel Dyer, Cozen O'Connor - Returning Board Member

Rachel joined the firm of Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies in January 2020 as a government relations professional. Just prior to that, she was the finance director for the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus where she raised over \$20.2 million dollars to benefit the 2019 Virginia Senate Democratic races, managed 23 staff members, and executed over 200 fundraising events for 19 Senate Democratic Caucus members and seven targeted races. Rachel is a founding member of New Leaders Council (NLC) of Virginia, which is considered a hub for progressive millennial thought leadership. She also serves as the development director of the VCU Political Science Alumni board.

Joycelyn Mahone Ferebee, VCU DAR - New Board Member

Joycelyn Mahone currently serves as the Director, University Development at Virginia Commonwealth University. With more than ten years of experience in fundraising, she has worked for various public and private institutions throughout her career. A native of South Florida, Joycelyn earned her BA in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida and later earned her Masters in Organization Leadership from Brenau University. In her spare time, she loves to hang out with her husband, family and friends. Joycelyn loves to cheer on her UCF Knights in college football in the fall and VCU in basketball in the spring. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Will Glasco, Preservation Virginia - Vice President

Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, Will Glasco became interested in Virginia history and culture at a young age. He learned the value of hard work at his family's business and attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. After graduation in 2008 with a degree in Creative Writing, he worked for the American Civil War Museum in both the Education and Development Departments. Since 2014 he's led the Development program at Preservation Virginia, where he works to save unique historic places and revitalize communities across the Commonwealth. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Rural Plains Foundation in Hanover County.

Stephanie Glenn, Community Foundation for a greater Richmond – New Board Member

As Vice President of Diversity and Engagement at the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, Stephanie Glenn leads the development and implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion strategies across the organization. She provides counsel and support to the board and staff in areas such as recruiting, communication, engagement and business planning; she also manages a relationship portfolio in the community to bring diverse audiences and perspectives into the work of the Foundation. She is the lead staff for the Foundation's affinity-driving giving programs and the *Giving Black: Greater Richmond* study, which is designed to build an understanding of philanthropy in Black communities by spotlighting the contexts, conditions and capital investments needed to transform the cycle of philanthropy in Black communities. When she's not working, Stephanie is making memories with her son, Gerald, and spending time with her family and friends. Her dedication to community service includes serving on nonprofit boards and volunteering with organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Stephanie is a proud alumna of Wilberforce University and has settled into Richmond as her home for over 13 years.

Susan Herzick, CFRE, Weinstein JCC – Returning Board Member

Susan Herzick is the Annual Fund Director at SOAR365, a nonprofit founded by families for families to create life-fulfilling opportunities for people with disabilities. She graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in business and a graduate certificate in event management. Susan started her fundraising career as a young Girl Scout selling cookies to fund a week at summer camp. She earned her CFRE in 2019. Susan moved to Richmond in 2015 and now resides in Lakeside with her husband, two boys, and two dogs. She enjoys traveling, creating new experiences for her kids, and learning to garden. Her favorite Richmond places are Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and PARK365.

Alan Hutson, MPA, CFRE The Monument Group – New Board Member

Alan Hutson is the Principal & Managing Partner at The Monument Group where he has focused on converting people's passions and good ideas into viable programs. His work has resulted in nonprofit organizations raising over \$150M (US based clients). He also serves as the Senior Partner Consultant of the Management Centre (=mc consulting) international network. Alan is a member of AFP as well as VAFRE and, in addition to regular presentations at VCU, has been a presenter at numerous international and local programs. He is the first person from Central Virginia elected to AFP's International Board and has served on the Executive Committee of the AFP Foundation for Philanthropy, as co-chair of AFP's Fundraising Board and served on the Strategic Planning Committee. Locally he has served on the boards of the local AFP chapter, Circle Center Adult Day Services, and 1708 Gallery. Additionally, he has been a member of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau Serving Central Virginia, the Richmond Business Council's Education Subcommittee, and the Rotary Club of Richmond. Alan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Davidson College. He also holds both a Masters of Public Administration and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Nonprofit Management from VCU. He is a graduate of Leadership Metro Richmond and AFP's Faculty Training Academy.

Nikkia Johnson, Legal Aid Justice Center – Returning Board Member

Nikkia Johnson joined Legal Aid Justice Center in October 2020 and is their Senior Development Officer. Prior to LAJC, she was the Development Manager at Voices for Virginia’s Children. There, she was responsible for managing and assisting with the implementation of development activities, leading fundraising events, and database management, as well as operational management. Nikkia’s career has been centered on nonprofit management and development, relationship building, and empowering marginalized communities. Nikkia is very involved in many community organizations and mentorship groups. She currently serves on ART 180’s programming committee and VAFRE’s programs committee. Nikkia graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. in sociology.

Katy Latimer, Rx Partnership – New Board Member

Katy Latimer is the Director of Development at Rx Partnership, working to increase medication access for vulnerable Virginians and strengthen the health safety net. Prior to joining Rx Partnership, she worked in development at Daily Planet Health Services. Before that, she started her career at Fairy Godmother Project providing support to families facing all phases of a pediatric cancer diagnosis. She received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Mary Washington in 2013 and is a graduate of the Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Program, a year-long professional development program for those working in the nonprofit sector. She is currently a member of the ouRVA Collective of the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond and the Virginia Public Health Association. She is a volunteer with the Virginia Department of Health’s Medical Reserve Corps, offering training as needed through the REVIVE! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education program. Born and raised in Richmond, Katy enjoys seeing live music, camping, cooking, and spending quality time with her cat Sushi. She is an avid collector of hot sauces and has successfully completed the “hot ones” challenge.

Samantha Marrs, Virginia Commonwealth University – President

Samantha Wheeler Marrs joined VCU twenty years ago as a fundraiser. Today, she oversees the infrastructure that supports all fundraising across the university, Massey Cancer Center, and the VCU Health System. She started her philanthropic career in 1991 when she joined The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as a program associate in the higher education funding program. She has started or served on the boards of numerous nonprofits in the Richmond community, most recently on the boards of AFP and Quill Theatre. She has volunteered as a P3 mentor to 27 VAFRE members, and in 2020 she received the CASE District 3 Mentor of the Year Award. Samantha is the 2017 recipient of the Nina Abady Award.

Elizabeth Mason, St. Joseph’s Villa – New Board Member

Elizabeth Mason is the Director of Development at St. Joseph’s Villa, where she has been since 2016. A native of Richmond, Elizabeth is passionate about serving the needs of our neighbors, and in addition to her work at the Villa, she has been involved with other local organizations including St. Andrew’s School, the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls, Fellowship of Christians in Universities and Schools (FOCUS), and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Elizabeth graduated from Collegiate School and Sewanee: The University of the South.

Alex Moore, CFRE, YMCA Richmond – New Board Member

Alexandra (Alex) Moore is the Vice President of Philanthropy for the YMCA of Greater Richmond. Alex began her career at the YMCA eight years ago as the Director of Stewardship and Annual Giving and later as Senior Director of Development. Prior to the Y, Alex was at Virginia Commonwealth University as Director of Stewardship for VCU Athletics then as Assistant Director of Donor Relations for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. She is a graduate of James Madison University and received her master's in Sports Leadership from VCU. In 2012, Alex was selected as the recipient of Virginia Association of Fund Raising Executives' Rising Star Award and received her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation in 2018.

Nell Nutaitis, ChildSavers – New Board Member

Nell Nutaitis has been the Vice President of Development & Communications at ChildSavers for the last two years, leading the Development team during a \$15 million comprehensive fundraising campaign, the largest in ChildSavers' history. Prior to her role at ChildSavers, she was the Chief Development Officer for the Red Cross' National Capital Region and held fundraising positions at George Mason University, The East Harlem School in New York City, and the University of Pennsylvania. Nell graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Mary Washington and a master's degree in educational policy from the University of Pennsylvania. Originally a native of New Jersey, she has adjusted nicely to the more temperate Virginia climate as have her two daughters, Tess and June, husband, Matt, and dog, Jack.

Lindsay Robinson, Northstar Academy – Returning Board Member

Lindsay Lane Robinson is the Director of Development at Northstar Academy. A native of Central Virginia, she began her career in nonprofit fundraising in 2008 at Planned Parenthood of North Texas, managing and successfully completing a \$21.5 million capital campaign during the recession. Lindsay has raised annual, capital, and endowment funds for several organizations, including Chesapeake Bay Foundation, United Way, and Richmond Ballet. An avid learner, Lindsay attended Clemson University (BA), Radford University (MS), University of Oklahoma, and University of Texas at Dallas. Her areas of study include interpersonal communication, persuasion, and nonprofit management. She enjoys traveling with her husband, trying all of Richmond's new restaurants with her girlfriends, playing make believe with her 5 and 3 year olds, and reading all by herself.

James Romanik, VCU School of Social Work – New Board Member

James Romanik is the Director of Development at the VCU School of Social Work, a position he's held since April 2022. In his role, James works closely with emeriti faculty, alumni, and community stakeholders to advance the school's mission through philanthropic and volunteer engagement. Previously, he was the Director of Development at The Doorways and St. Michael's Episcopal School. He relocated to Richmond with his wife in 2018 after working in development for a variety of causes in New York City. James graduated from Ithaca College in 2013 with a

Bachelors in Arts Management; he is currently pursuing an M.B.A. from VCU with graduation expected in 2022. Personally, James is an avid cook, gardener, amateur beer brewer, pianist, and proud member of the Richmond Symphony Chorus.

David Sams, The Community Tax Law Project – Immediate Past President

David is currently the Executive Director of The Community Tax Law Project in addition to advising business clients in his own private law practice. David is a graduate of the University of Florida where he received his Juris Doctor and his Master of Laws in Taxation. Throughout his legal career, he has volunteered at a number of not-for-profit organizations including the low-income tax clinic at Gulfcoast Legal Services, Three Rivers Legal Services, and his local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. As a proud Florida Gator, he remains active in the UF community as a member of the UF Law Alumni Council as well as an alumnus of Florida Blue Key. David currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Richmond area Tech for Troops Project and Sprite's HERO humane education and research organization.

Megan Schowengerdt, The Menokin Foundation – New Board Member

Megan Schowengerdt serves as Development Director at the Menokin Foundation, where she oversees and executes their \$9.5 capital campaign and all other organizational development efforts. She has over 17 years of professional development, communication and nonprofit management experience. Prior to Menokin, Megan served as the Development Director at the Virginia Hemophilia Foundation, where she was responsible for various peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns, an annual fund campaign and overall volunteer management. She has held other leadership positions at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the March of Dimes, the James River Green Building Council, Airports Council International and the Museum of the Confederacy (now the American Civil War Museum). She enjoys relationship building, writing and empowering others to embrace the spirit of philanthropy. A Virginia native, Megan grew up in Midlothian and attended James Madison University, where she graduated in 2005 with her B.A. in English and Speech Communication. She currently resides in Mechanicsville with her husband Robert and two children, Rylan and Evie. In her free time, Megan enjoys reading, travel, cooking, yoga and hiking.

Frances Sterling, Richmond Symphony – Returning Board Member

Frances Sterling is the Director of Advancement and Patron Communications at the Richmond Symphony. She joined the Symphony in January 2020 and had previously been with the Union Chapel in London. Her experience covers both capital and revenue fundraising for historic buildings, artistic, and community programs. She started her career as a theatre and opera producer, raising commercial and donated funds for productions. After 12 years of being Artistic and Managing Director of the historic Wilton's Music Hall she progressed into freelance fundraising for a number of arts and heritage non-profits in London. Frances graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in Linguistics and is now studying for a Masters in Global Diplomacy.

Robinette Tiller, VCU Massey Cancer Center – Returning Board Member

Robinette Tiller currently serves as the Associate Director of Annual Giving at VCU Massey Cancer Center. She brings over 13 years of experience working in the field of higher education and non-profit fundraising. She directs and executes Massey's direct mail solicitation program. She oversees the Commemorative Giving Program, Family Request Program and the Tribute Card Program. She develops and manages annual giving stewardship and cultivation strategy for the annual giving team. She has received certificates from the University of Richmond's Institute of Philanthropy in Fundraising & Development and Nonprofit Marketing. Robinette earned her associate's degree in Business Administration from Strayer University and is currently working on her undergraduate degree in African American Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. In her spare time she volunteers at her church Ebenezer Baptist Church where she is the Chairperson of the Women of Dorcas Missionary Circle, Chairperson of the Security Ministry, member of Health Care Ministry and member of the Budget and Finance Ministry. She also sits on the Board of Administration for her church. She has been a member of VAFRE since 2012 and participated in VAFRE's first Professional Partnership Program (P3).

Anna von Gehr, Virginia Museum of History & Culture – New Board Member

Anna von Gehr joined the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) in 2019 as the Vice President for Advancement. Under her leadership, she has reorganized the development operation in support of a comprehensive capital campaign culminating in the most successful fundraising effort in the institution's nearly 200-year history. As a member of the VMHC's executive staff she provides administrative oversight for philanthropic programs and overall strategic direction and management of the museum. Previously, Anna served as the Chief Officer for Advancement & External Affairs at the Florida State University's John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art. The museum successfully completed a historic \$100 million comprehensive campaign and two strategic plans resulting in five new facilities, a 35% increase in museum attendance and a doubling of annual philanthropy. Other prior positions have included serving as the first Director of Development for the U.Va. Art Museums, Director of University Arts Development at UVA, serving as the Director of Development for the College at Washington and Lee University, the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Manager at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and as the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Coordinator at the Oakland Museum of California. Anna was a Regent Scholar at the University of California Santa Cruz and majored in History. She earned her master's in museum studies from San Francisco State University with an emphasis in Non-profit Management and Development.

Jennifer Whiteside, VPM – Returning Board Member

Jennifer Whiteside is currently the Director of Membership for VPM, Virginia's home for Public Media. Prior to joining VPM, she was the Annual Fund Manager for Richmond Ballet. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Washington with a double major in Business Administration and Theatre & Dance. While working in a sales position for a non-profit theatre company, she discovered that her interpersonal and organizational skills were well-suited for connecting the philanthropic passions of individuals with the priorities of an organization; thus a career in fundraising was launched. Born and raised in Midlothian, Jennifer was excited to

return to the Richmond community in 2015 after working in Washington, D.C. for about 5 years. She now lives in Glen Allen with her pup, Callie. She also enjoys cross-stitching, attending local ballet and theatre performances, exploring Richmond's local restaurant and brewery scene, and spending time with family and friends. She has been a member of VAFRE since 2019, completed the P3 program in 2020 and currently serves as the Membership Committee Chair.

Trevor Worden, VCU – New Board Member

Trevor Worden currently serves as a University Gift Officer for Virginia Commonwealth University. There he has created a VCU's first scholarship for the LGBTQIA+ community, in addition to several other identity-based scholarships. Prior to serving the entire university, Trevor worked specifically for the College of Health Professions as VCU. While there, he created their leadership annual gift program, including an annual giving circle. Prior to joining VCU, Trevor worked at several smaller nonprofits, some of which while he pursued an acting career in New York City. He is graduate of the University of North Carolina at Asheville. In Richmond, he has previously served on the board for Patrick Henry School for Science and Arts and on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for Stonewall Sports. He lives near Forest Hill Park with his husband Bartley and their sweet dog Finn.